

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 L-03 DHA-02 ORM-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8888

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4226

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RO

SUBJECT: MIRCEA DEFECTIONS

REF: (A) STATE 176924; (B) SCISSORS/DUNLOP TELEPHONE CALL

OF JULY 16; (C) STATE 174751

1. DEPY MINISTER GLIGA CALLED IN CHARGE LAST EVENING TO CONVEY ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT'S "PROFOUND DISSATISFACTION" REGARDING USG RESPONSE TO "DISAPPEARANCES" OF TWO CREWMEN FROM CIRCEA. GLIGA ASKED FOR RETURN OF SAILORS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. FAILING THIS ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO INTERRUPT VISIT OF CIRCEA AND TO HAVE VESSEL RETURN HOME.

2. KNOWING EFFICIENCY OF U.S. AUTHORITIES, GLIGA SAID, GOG COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY MISSING SEAMEN HAD NOT BEEN FOUND BEFORE NOW. ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT HAD DEMONSTRATED CONSIDERABLE PATIENCE, BUT MANY DAYS HAD PASSED SINCE DISAPPEARANCES WERE REPORTED TO STATE

DEPARTMENT AND TO NY POLICE. IN LIGHT OF OUR GOOD RELATIONS AND OF ROMANIA'S WILLINGNESS TO SEND MIRCEA TO U.S., ROMANIA ZTS

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TO COMPREHEND WHY WE HAD SHOWN SO LITTLE "SOLICITUDE" FOR ROMANIAN APPEALS.

3. DRAWING ON DEPARTMENT'S REPORT OF SITUATION, (STATE 174751),

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CHARGE INDICATED THAT WE HAD HAD CONTACT WITH ONLY ONE OF TWO

CREWMEN AND WERE SEEKING TO CONVINCE HIM TO MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF ROMANIAN EMBASSY. REGARDING SECOND CREW MEMBER, CHARGE EXPLAINED THAT WE HAD NOT AS YET HAD CONTACT WITH HIM BUT THAT, WHEN WE DID, WE WOULD SIMILARLY SOLICIT HIS AGREEMENT TO MEETING. AT SAME TIME CHARGE MADE CLEAR THAT, IN CONFORMITY WITH OUR LAWS, WE WOULD NOT FORCE CREWMEN TO RETURN AGAINST THEIR WILL. HOPE WAS ALSO EXPRESSED THAT GOR WOULD NOT FIND IT NECESSARY TO WITHDRAW MICHEA.

4. FOLLOWING TELEPHONE CALL WITH DUNLOP, CHARGE PHONED MFA DUTY OFFICER TO REQUEST THAT HE INFORM GLIGA OF OFFER OF MONDAY MORNING MEETING WITH UNGUREANU AS WELL AS POSITIVE RESPONSE REGARDING PARTICIPATION OF ADMIRAL SANDU.

5. ON RECEIPT OF REVISED MEETING TIME (STATE 176924), CALL PLACED TO BOTH OGIGA AND MITRAN. POLITICAL OFFICER, WHO RECEIVED RETURN CALL FROM MITRAN, INFORMED HIM OF POSTPONEMENT TO TUESDAY AT EMBASSY REQUEST. CHARACTERISTICALLY, MITRAN GAVE NO REACTION TO INFORMATION THAT MEETING ARRANGED EXCEPT TO INQUIRE AS TO WHAT WE HAD DONE ABOUT EMBASSY ACCESS TO SECOND CREWMEN.

6. PRESUMABLY RELATED, ALTHOUGH TOPIC WAS NOT ANNOUNCED, DATT HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO CALL ON GENERAL COMAN ON MONDAY.

7. FOR THE RECORD, CHARGE FIRST BROACHED DEFECTION ISSUE WITH MITRAN AT LUNCH ON THURSDAY IN EFFORT TO LEARN LIKELY ROMANIAN REACTION. SAME POINTS WERE MADE THEN AS LATER REPEATED TO GLIGA. MITRAN ACKNOWLEDGED HE HAD NOT RECEIVED REPORT ON NICOLAE/HARTMAN/ANDREWS CONVERSATION. HE GAVE NO INDICATION WHAT GOR REACTION MIGHT BE.

8. COMMENT. WHILE WE HAVE YET TO SEE WHETHER FACT THAT MEETING SET WITH UNGUREANU WILL DETER PRECIPITOUS ROMANIAN ACTION, GLIGA'S CATEGORICAL STATEMENT ("HAD DECIDED") SUGGESTS TO US THAT GOR APPROACH HAS LITTLE, IF ANY, FLEXIBILITY. WE WOULD THEREFORE NOT DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY THAT MIRCEA MIGHT ABRUPTLY SET SAIL FOR HOME.
SCISSORS

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NOTE BY OC/T: BUCHAREST 4226; #PARA. 2. AS RECEIVED. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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